

Participant Information Sheet

Study name: The acute effects of psychedelics on cognition: an observational study.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Adam Hampshire

Co-Investigator: Miss Maria Balaet

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Contact us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. In addition, please be mindful that drug consumption is illegal in certain countries, and we are not encouraging taking any risks.

You are suited to take part in the study if

- You are a proficient English speaker
- Are already planning to take psychedelic drugs, independently from your participation in this study.

You may **not** take part in this study if:

- You are below 18 years old
- Take psychopharmaceutical medicines*

Have a history of mental illness

Thank you for reading this.

*Sometimes people are being prescribed psychopharmaceutical medicines such as antidepressants or antipsychotics to aid with their recovery from mental health problems. Please ensure you are not subjecting yourself to risks by mixing psychedelic drugs with other psychopharmaceutical medication.

Commonly prescribed drugs are: benzodiazepines (alprazolam – Xanax, diazepam – Valium), anxiolytics (buspirone – BuSpir), mood stabilisers (lithium – Sedalite), antidepressants (citalopram - Celexa , fluoxetine - Prozac) but mind that you might have been prescribed something not named above.

Please inform your healthcare provider if you have consumed a psychedelic while taking psychopharmaceutical medication and reacted negatively, and consult our harm reduction section for more resources.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

This study aims to better understand how consuming psychedelic drugs can influence the mind during the psychedelic experience. We would like to know more about the immediate effects of psychedelics so that clinicians can learn how to handle situation relating to psychedelic use. It is very important for us to underline that in this study, we do **not** encourage nor condone drug use. Our stance is a neutral, and we only endeavour to understand and describe what is already taking place.

2. STUDY PROCEDURE

What is the purpose of the study?

The study aims to understand how psychedelic drugs affect human cognitive function. We are interested in understanding how psychedelic drugs affect your memory, emotional intelligence, decision making and reasoning when you take them recreationally. So far the majority of studies have been confined to laboratory settings, reason why we are currently investigating this topic in natural settings.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited to participate by your own choice upon seeing the advertisements for the study on social media platforms, dedicated groups or word of mouth.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to agree to a consent form in the next page.

If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. To do so, just quit the browser. However, since the data is unidentifiable, we will not be able to identify and delete your data once you withdraw.

What will happen to me if I take part?

Should you choose to participate in this study, you would go through the steps outlined below. At any time, you are free to abandon the study. We emphasise that agreeing to partake should **not** be seen as a reason or commitment to take drugs.

After consenting to partake, you will be asked a few questions regarding your age, gender and previous drug use. Then, you will be directed to a set of brain games, followed by a few more questions about yourself in general.

The whole set of brain games and the questions will take no more than 20-30minutes to complete depending on the intensity of your experience. We are running the study between September 2020 to December 2023.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Possible disadvantages of taking part in the study include having your psychedelic experience focus become the research study for a limited period of time (maximum of 30 minutes) while you are on our website. There are, however, no adverse health effects of the study beyond the same effects you would be subjecting yourself to if you were to use your smartphone/laptop/tablet during your psychedelic experience without participating in the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no health or financial benefits to taking part in the study. However, there is the benefit of helping researchers better understand what happens to cognition under the influence of psychedelic drugs.

What if something goes wrong?

If you are harmed by taking part in this research project, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action. Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this study then you should immediately inform the Investigator (Miss Maria Balaet – psyencecamp@gmail.com). If you are still not satisfied with the response, you may contact the Imperial Joint Research Compliance Office.

- **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

After we have analysed the data, we aim to publish it in a major research journal. Whether we are able to publish the data depends on the acceptance of the journal in question. The participants identities will remain anonymous throughout.

- **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This study is organised by the Computational, Cognitive and Clinical Neuroimaging Laboratory based in the Department of Brain Sciences at Imperial College London. The study is not funded.

- **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study was given ethical approval by Imperial College Research Ethics Committee (ICREC). This study was given ethical approval by Professor Paul Matthews Head of Department.

Contact for Further Information

For further information, please email Miss Maria Balaet: m.balaet17@imperial.ac.uk

We thank you dearly for your time and participation!

TRANSPARENCY NOTICE

Summary Information sheet

In this research study we will use information from **you**. We will only use information that we need for the research study. We will let very few people know your name or contact details, and only if they really need it for this study.

Everyone involved in this study will keep your data safe and secure. We will also follow all privacy rules.

At the end of the study we will save some of the data **in case we need to check it AND for future research**.

We will make sure no-one can work out who you are from the reports we write.

The information pack tells you more about this.

HOW WILL WE USE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU?

Research Study Title: The acute effects of psychedelics on cognition: an observational study.

Imperial College London is the sponsor for this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Imperial College London will keep your personal data for:

- 10 years after the study has finished in relation to data subject consent forms.
- 10 years after the study has completed in relation to primary research data.

We will need to use information from **you** for this research project.

This information will include your **unique identifier, and your voice recording**. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

LEGAL BASIS

As a university we use personally-identifiable information to conduct research to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in

the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use your data in the ways needed to conduct and analyse the research study. Health and care research should serve the public interest, which means that we have to demonstrate that our research serves the interests of society as a whole. We do this by following the [UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research](#)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

There may be a requirement to transfer information to countries outside the European Economic Area (for example, to a research partner). Where this information contains your personal data, Imperial College London will ensure that it is transferred in accordance with data protection legislation. If the data is transferred to a country which is not subject to a European Commission (EC) adequacy decision in respect of its data protection standards, Imperial College London will enter into a data sharing agreement with the recipient organisation that incorporates EC approved standard contractual clauses that safeguard how your personal data is processed.

SHARING YOUR INFORMATION WITH OTHERS

For the purposes referred to in this privacy notice and relying on the bases for processing as set out above, we will share your personal data with certain third parties.

- Other College employees, agents, contractors and service providers (for example, suppliers of printing and mailing services, email communication services or web services, or suppliers who help us carry out any of the activities described above). Our third party service providers are required to enter into data processing agreements with us. We only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our policies.

WHAT ARE YOUR CHOICES ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.

- We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.
- **if data will be used for future research: If you agree to take part in this study, your data used for future research will not be able to be linked back to you.**

WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR INFORMATION IS USED

You can find out more about how we use your information

- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to m.balaet17@imperial.ac.uk or
- by ringing us on [+44 \(0\)20 7594 7993](tel:+442075947993)

COMPLAINT

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, please contact Imperial College London's Data Protection Officer via email at dpo@imperial.ac.uk, via telephone on 020 7594 3502 and/or via post at Imperial College London, Data Protection Officer, Faculty Building Level 4, London SW7 2AZ.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO does recommend that you seek to resolve matters with the data controller (us) first before involving the regulator.